

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-19 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 RSR-01 /115 W

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O P 172030Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4831

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, VE, CS

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE ON CUBA

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO THIS MORNING (AUGUST 17) AND ASKED HIM WHAT HIS LATEST READING WAS ON VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE. HE SAID HE HAD JUST DRAFTED MEMORANDUM WHICH HE PLANNED PRESENT TO VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR HERE THIS AFTERNOON FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOV. HE SAID MEMO WAS LONG REBUTTAL OF VENEZUELAN ARGUMENTS LEADING TO CONCLUSION, WHICH HE READ TO ME, THAT COSTA RICA REGRETTED THAT IT COULD NOT SUPPORT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE, WHATEVER ITS POLITICAL OR PRAGMATIC MERITS, BECAUSE IT WAS JURIDICALLY WRONG AND VIOLATED RIO TREATY PROCEDURES. HE PROMISED TO GIVE ME A COPY AFTER HE HAD

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PRESENTED IT TO VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR.

2. FACIO SAID HE FELT SURE THAT WITHOUT COSTA RICA'S SUPPORT VENEZUELA WOULD NOT PRESENT THE RESOLUTION, AND HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD END THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE FOR THE TIME BEING. HE CHARACTERIZED VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE AS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

3. HE SAID THAT IN HIS REBUTTAL TO THE VENEZUELAN HE HAD DRAWN ON SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT HE HAD SPELLED OUT IN HIS OWN MEMORANDUM OUTLINING HIS "ALTERNATIVE". ALTHOUGH I HAD INTENDED TO OUTLINE OUR OBJECTIONS TO THE COSTA RICAN FORMULA IN THIS MEETING, I DECIDED NOT TO DO SO AT THAT POINT, MINDFUL OF GUIDANCE IN PARA 8 OF STATE 161341. SINCE FACIO IS MOVING SO FIRMLY ALONG THE LINES WE WANT HIM TO, I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT NOT TO CHALLENGE HIS JURIDICAL CONCEPTS UNTIL AFTER HE HAD DELIVERED HIS REFUSAL OF SUPPORT TO THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR SO AS NOT TO RISK ANY SECOND THOUGHTS. I DID TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT TO HIM THAT WE HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES ON LEGAL GROUNDS WITH HIS OWN FORMULA AND THAT I EXPECTED TO HAVE MORE COMPLETE COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON'S VIEW THIS WEEK-END. WE AGREED TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN ON MONDAY.

4. COMMENT; WHILE FACIO CLAIMS HE WILL NOT TALE INITIATIVE TP PROPOUND HIS FORMULA, HE DID SAY THAT SOONER OR LATER AMERICAN STATES WILL HAVE TO FACE UP TO BASIC QUESTION. I WILL TRY TO GET BETTER FEEL FOR HIS TACTICAL PLANNING WHEN I SEE HIM MONDAY, BUT I MUST CONFESS TO SOME APPREHENSIONS ALONG LINES OF PADILHA VIDAL'S FEARS (BRASILIA 5279). AS DEPT. KNOWS FACIO HAS HAD PREPARATION
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OF HIS THEORY IN WORKS FOR A LONG TIME--AT LEAST AS EARLY AS BEGINNING OF LIMA MEETING--AND HAS DISCUSSED IT WITH SOME OTHER NATIONS (PERU IS ONLY ONE HE HAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED). IT IS NOT IN HIS CHARACTER TO PREPARE SO CAREFULLY FOR JUST AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE, AND I SUSPECT HE HAS IN MIND A CAREFULLY WORKED-OUT AND TYPICALLY

DEVIOUS STRATEGY. HE MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN
PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN SEEING THE VENEZUELAN
INITIATIVE DEFEATED SO THAT FRUSTRATION WOULD
BUILD AND MAKE HIS ALTERNATIVE MORE

ATTRACTIVE. HE IS, I SUSPECT, MOTIVATED
PARTLY BY THE "EGO TRIP" FACTOR AND PARTLY
BY SINCERELY IDEALISTIC (FROM HIS POINT OF
VIEW) MOTIVATIONS TO PRESERVE THE SYSTEM.
THE POINT IS THAT HIS INTEREST IN PRESERVING
THE INTEGRITY OF THE SYSTEM AS HE SEES IT
DOES NOT NECESSARILY EQUATE WITH AVOIDING
EMBARRASSING US. THAT HIS FORMULA WOULD BE
MORE DEFINITIVE AND THEREFORE PRESENT US
WITH A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT DILEMMA MAY
NOT NECESSARILY DETER HIM. IN ANY CASE, IF HE
DOES HAVE A FIRM "GAME PLAN" IN MIND, HE WILL BE
HARD TO DISCOURAGE.
VAKY

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